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REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claims 1, 12, 17 and 23 were amended in the "Reply to Final Office Action" dated June 30, 2003. The Advisory Action states that amendments made to the above mentioned claims raised new issues that would require further consideration and/or search. Additionally, the Advisory Action states that the amendments are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal. Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested since they remove issues in the event of an appeal, do not require further searching, and/or place the subject application in condition for allowance. Applicants' representative respectfully requests notice of allowance of all claims.

Independent claims 1, 12, 17 and 23 were amended to recite "an exposing source operative to expose a *semiconductor* substrate and at least one temperature sensor operative to proximally sense temperature characteristics of the *semiconductor* substrate." Amending these claims to include the term *semiconductor* clarifies the term substrate as recited in the above independent claims and does not raise new issues that would require a new search as the Examiner contends. Rather, *semiconductor* substrate is supported by dependent claims 7 and 22 which recite a "substrate comprising one of a reticle, mask and a wafer." Those skilled in the art appreciate that the terms reticle, mask and wafer are synonymous and used in conjunction with *semiconductor* fabrication. Therefore, the addition of the term semiconductor merely clarifies a term in independent claims 1, 12, 17, and 23 that have support in dependent claims 7 and 22. Since dependent claims 7 and 22 recite limitations relating to *semiconductor* fabrication utilized in conjunction with this invention, the Examiner necessarily had to perform a prior art search relating to *semiconductor* substrates as recited in the amended claims. Therefore, no new issues are raised by amending *semiconductor* substrate and will not require a new search to be performed.

Similarly, amending independent claims 1, 12, 17 and 23 to include a *plurality* of temperature sensors does not introduce new issues that would require a new prior art search to be performed. Dependent claim 8 recites "[the] temperature sensor further

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comprising a *plurality* of temperature sensors." Therefore, the Examiner previously performed a prior art search relating to a *plurality* of temperature sensors and does not require performance of a new search.

Accordingly, for at least the above reasons, the proposed amendments to claims 1, 12, 17 and 23 should be allowed. In view of the above it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of independent claims 1, 12, 17 and 23 (and claims 2-11, 13-16 and 18-22 which depend therefrom) should be withdrawn.


CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above amendments and comments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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